

1. A method for allocating hosting-service resources to clients in at least one shared server, said method including the steps of:
 - discovering utilization patterns of said clients; and
 - allocating said resources to said clients dependent on said utilization patterns.

2. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of
10 providing bounds specifying minimum and maximum hosting-service resources for each
of said clients, said allocating step also being dependent upon said bounds.

3. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of modeling dimensions for client use measures and said utilization patterns.

4. The method according to claim 3, further including the step of packing said clients using stochastic vectors.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said packing step utilizes at least one of the processes selected from the group consisting of a Roof Avoidance process, a Minimized Variance process, a Maximized Minima process, and a Largest Combination process.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said hosting-service
resources relate to at least one hosting service selected from the group consisting of
collaborative hosting services, commerce hosting services, and e-business hosting
services.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said allocating step effects a
30 Quality of Service (QoS) guarantee.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said utilization patterns are dependent upon access rates of one or more websites, said access rates have periodicity on multiple time scales.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein two or more clients are selected from a plurality of clients on the basis of complementarity, wherein said hosting-service resources are allocated to said selected two or more clients as a combination.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said allocating step includes the step of selecting said two or more clients to be allocated to a server, said two or more selected clients each having a peak load that is substantially disjoint in time in relation to a peak load of the remaining other selected clients.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein said allocated hosting-service resources include resources allocated exclusively to each of said selected two or more clients and shared resources allocated to said combination for use by said selected two or more clients.

12. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of monitoring said clients to discover said utilization patterns.

13. The method according to claim 10, wherein N clients are selected and allocated to a server, N being an integer greater than or equal to two, said server being partitioned into N virtual servers, each client being exclusively allocated a corresponding one of said N virtual servers, excess capacity of said server beyond the capacity required to provide said N virtual servers is shared by said N clients.

14. An apparatus for allocating hosting-service resources to clients in at least one shared server, said apparatus including:

means for discovering utilization patterns of said clients; and

means for allocating said resources to said clients dependent on said utilization

patterns.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, further including means for providing bounds specifying minimum and maximum hosting-service resources for each of said clients, said allocating means also being dependent upon said bounds.

5 17. The apparatus according to claim 16, further including means for
packing said clients using stochastic vectors.

19. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said hosting-service resources relate to at least one hosting service selected from the group consisting of collaborative hosting services, commerce hosting services, and e-business hosting services.

21. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said utilization patterns are dependent upon access rates of one or more websites, said access rates have periodicity on multiple time scales.

30 23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocating means includes means for selecting said two or more clients to be allocated to a server, said two or more selected clients each having a peak load that is substantially disjoint in time in relation to a peak load of the remaining other selected clients.

24. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocated hosting-service resources include resources allocated exclusively to each of said selected two or more clients and shared resources allocated to said combination for use by said selected two or more clients.

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25. The apparatus according to claim 14, further including means for monitoring said clients to discover said utilization patterns.

10 26. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein N clients are selected and allocated to a server, N being an integer greater than or equal to two, said server being partitioned into N virtual servers, each client being exclusively allocated a corresponding one of said N virtual servers, excess capacity of said server beyond the capacity required to provide said N virtual servers is shared by said N clients.

15 27. A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for allocating hosting-service resources to clients in at least one shared server, said computer program product including:
computer program code means for discovering utilization patterns of said clients;
and
20 computer program code means for allocating said resources to said clients dependent on said utilization patterns.

28. The computer program product according to claim 27, further including computer program code means for providing bounds specifying minimum and maximum
25 hosting-service resources for each of said clients, said computer program code means for allocating also being dependent upon said bounds.

29. The computer program product according to claim 27, further including computer program code means for modeling dimensions for client use measures and said
30 utilization patterns.

30. The computer program product according to claim 29, further including computer program code means for packing said clients using stochastic vectors.

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38. The computer program product according to claim 27, further including

39. The computer program product according to claim 36, wherein N clients
5 are selected and allocated to a server, N being an integer greater than or equal to two, said
server being partitioned into N virtual servers, each client being exclusively allocated a
corresponding one of said N virtual servers, excess capacity of said server beyond the
capacity required to provide said N virtual servers is shared by said N clients.

means for modeling utilization of resources of one or more servers by clients in response to at least one of utilization patterns of said clients and specified rules regarding quality of service; and

41. The decision support system according to claim 40, wherein said determining means utilizes stochastic vector packing.

43. The decision support system according to claim 40, wherein said
25 hosting computing services include hosting computing resources, computing applications,
computing-related services, and network bandwidth.

45. The decision support system according to claim 40, wherein said system provides an optimization service for use in a business model hosting optimization applications.

46. A decision support method for allocating and planning resources in hosting computing services, said method including the steps of:

5 modeling utilization of resources of one or more servers by clients in response to at least one of utilization patterns of said clients and specified rules regarding quality of service; and

determining a minimum number of servers for accomodating said clients to ensure a specified minimum quality of service.

10 47. The method according to claim 46, wherein said determining step utilizes stochastic vector packing.

15 48. The method according to claim 46, wherein said method facilitates optimal management of resources in said hosting computing services.

49. The method according to claim 46, wherein said hosting computing services include hosting computing resources, computing applications, computing-related services, and network bandwidth.

20 50. The method according to claim 47, including the step of generating for a service provider a set of suggestions for optimal resource planning and allocation.

25 51. The method according to claim 47, wherein said method provides an optimization service for use in a business model hosting optimization applications.

52. A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for providing decision support to allocate and plan resources in hosting computing services, said computer program product including:

30 computer program code means for modeling utilization of resources of one or more servers by clients in response to at least one of utilization patterns of said clients and specified rules regarding quality of service; and

computer program code means for determining a minimum number of servers for accomodating said clients to ensure a specified minimum quality of service.

53. The computer program product according to claim 52, wherein said computer program code means for determining utilizes stochastic vector packing.

5 54. The computer program product according to claim 52, wherein said computer program product facilitates optimal management of resources in said hosting computing services.

10 55. The computer program product according to claim 52, wherein said hosting computing services include hosting computing resources, computing applications, computing-related services, and network bandwidth.

15 56. The computer program product according to claim 52, including computer program code means for generating for a service provider a set of suggestions for optimal resource planning and allocation.

20 57. The computer program product according to claim 52, wherein said computer program product provides an optimization service for use in a business model hosting optimization applications.